Rao Bahadur Rajasevanirata Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai: ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു തോന്നിട്ടുള്ളതു എന്താണെന്നു ഉത്തരത്തിൽ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടു്. അതിൽ കൂടുതലായി ഒന്നും പറയാൻ നിവർത്തിയില്ല.

Applications under Section 23 of the Irrigation Regulation.

13. ***Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar:** Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) how many applications have been received by the Tahsildars of Ambalapuzha, Changanacherry and Kottayam under Section 23 of the Irrigation Regulation after the passing of that Regulation :

(*b*) in how many cases have the works been carried out by the Government and costs recovered from the defaulting ryots ?

Mr. K. George: (*a*) No separate register is maintained in Taluk Offices to file applications received under Section 23 of the Irrigation Regulation and hence it is not possible to ascertain the correct number of such applications received. On verification of the records available it is reported that these were 2 applications in the Kottayam taluk, 5 in Changanachery and 175 in Ambalapuzha.

(*b*) One.

Need for the appointment of the Director of Public Information.

11. ***Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair:** Will the Government be pleased to state the necessity for the appointment of such an officer as the Director of Public Information with such a pay ?

Rao Bahadur Rajyasevanirata Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai: Government have felt the need, in common with other Governments, of a liason officer who will provide a link between the Government on the one side and the newspapars on the other. The Director of Information who is a journalist of considerable experience and talent is fulfilling this useful function. He keeps Government informed of public opinion as reflected in the Press and acts as the agency through which news concerning the activities of Government and their policies is given to the Press.

As the present Director of Information is a journalist of standing, his services could not be obtained for a salary less than the one now paid to him.

Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair: May I know whether the Director of Public Information translates articles in Malayalam ?

Rao Bahadur Rajyasevanirata Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai: If he does not do it he has got subordinates to attend to that work.

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Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair: May I know whether he is competent to translate Malayalam articles into English ?

Rao Bahadur Rajyasevanirata Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai: I think he knows Malayalam fairly well and if the necessity arises he will translate Malayalam articles.

Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair: May I know the reasons that prompted Government to appoint a Director of Public Information in the place of the Publicity Officer ?

Rao Bahadur Rajyasevanirata Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai: Government found that the present officer was one experienced in publicity work and was the proper person to be appointed to the post of Director of Information.

Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair: Over and above his salary of Rs. 350, is he paid any additional remuneration for his photography work ?

Rao Bahadur Rajyasevanirata Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai: No, Sir.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi (*Karunagapalli, Kartikapalli and Ambalapuzha* cum *Shertalla*): What was his salary before he accepted his present appointment ?

Rao Bahadur Rajyasevanirata Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai: As staff correspondent of the Madras Mail he was getting a remuneration which was about the same as the salary he is now drawing.

Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair: May I know.

Mr. C. V. Chandrasekharan: On a point of order, Sir. There is a ruling that a member loses his turn, to ask supplementary questions, once he sits down and another honourable member has put supplementary questions.

President: I know there is a ruling like that ; to meet the convenience of the honourable members it has not been enforced, especially since the thirst for information seems to be so great.

Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair: It is not a question of any thirst for information, Sir. I would like to offer a personal explanation in the matter. I do require some time to stand up after the official member sits down, and then to put my question.

President: I fully realise that. The honourable member can continue to put supplementary questions until I stop him.

Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair: I am thankful to you, Sir.

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The Chief Secretary was saying that the present Director of Information was getting, even before he was appointed as Director of Information here, more or less the same salary that he is now getting. May I know the source of the information ?

Rao Bahadur Rajyasevanirata Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai: The officer himself.

Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair : Has he submitted any records to prove his statement ?

Rao Bahadur Rajyasevanirata Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai: Yes, Sir.

Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi : May I know whether the post was advertised and applications invited ?

Rao Bahadur Rajyasevanirata Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai: No.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: May I know where or when the present incumbent informed the Government about his previous salary in the Madras Mail Office ?

Rao Bahadur Rajyasevanirata Dr N Kunjan Pillai: In his application.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: May I know the exact figure that he has given in the application?

Rao Bahadur Rajyasevanirata Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai: I do not remember the exact figure. The application is not now before me, but as far as I remember the amount mentioned therein is about the same as is being paid to him now.

The Director of Information.

15. ***Mr. M. S. Anirudhan** (*Karunagapalli, Kartikapalli and Ambalapuzha* cum *Shertalla*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) the functions and duties of the Director of Information ;

(*b*) the academic qualifications of the present Director of Information ; and

(*c*) the past experience, if any, of the Director of Information ?

Rao Bahadur Rajyasevanirata Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai: (*a*) The Director of Information serves as a link between Government and the Press. He is the channel through which official information is normally given to the Public Press and the trend of public opinion as reflected in the Public Press is reported to Government. He is to issue communiques, press notes, etc., about Government activities and also correct any false information which may appear in the Press. He is entrusted with correspondence relating to newspapers under the Newspapers Regulation and the Copyright Regulation. An important part of his work is to try and secure adequate publicity for the State in India and abroad.

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